

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1564

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: MISUNDERSTANDING

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 1559, (B) JERUSALEM 1555, (C) JERUSALEM 1561

1. "JERUSALEM POST" JUNE 7 CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY BASED ON
INACCURATE BEIRUT PRESS ACCOUNTS OF SIILASVUO'S JUNE 5 MEETING
WITH HOSS AND BOUTROS. STORY STATES GOL REJECTED SERIES OF
ISRAELI CONDITIONS CONVEYED BY SIILASVUO FOR WITHDRAWAL:

(A) GOI WISHES TO KEEP FOUR OUTPOSTS IN SOUTH LEBANON;

(B) NO PALESTINIAN OR SYRIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON;

(C) ONLY UNIFIL TROOPS MAY ENTER AREA TO BE VACATED BY IDF;

(D) LAF MAY NOT ENTER CERTAIN AREAS ON THE BORDER (CHRISTIAN
ENCLAVES).

2. I DECIDED TO QUERY SIILASVUO AND PRIETO AND ALSO TRY TO
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GET BETTER FEEL FOR APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HOSS/
BOUTROS AND SIILASVUO/PRIETO (JERUSALEM 1559).

3. SIILASVUO SAID STORY (SEPTTEL) WAS COMPLETELY INACCURATE AND
PROBABLY RESULTED FROM SOME OF THE LEBANESE PRESENT NOT
COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDING WHAT WAS SAID. HIS PRESENTATION
HAD BEEN BRIEF AND TO THE POINT: GOI TOOK POSITION UN

SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH HADDAD ENTRY INTO CHRISTIAN AREAS EXCEPT FOR FIVE UNTSO OBSERVATION POSTS (WHERE UN ALREADY PRESENT) AND "GOOD FENCE" SHOULD REMAIN OPEN. SIILASVUO SURMISES SOME LEBANESE PARTICIPANTS MISUNDERSTOOD REFERENCE TO UNTSO OBSERVATION POSTS. ENTRY OF LAF INTO THE AREA WAS NOT EVEN DISCUSSED NOR WAS PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PRESENCE.

4. BOTH SIILASVUO AND PRIETO REHEARSED THEIR POSITION AS TO OUTCOME OF HOSS/BOUTROS MEETING AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (JERUSALEM 1555). THEY REPEAT THAT THEY ARE NOT TO CONTACT HADDAD AT GOL'S SPECIFIC REQUEST.

5. SIILASVUO WAS ALSO UNDER IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT TO RETURN TO BEIRUT PRIOR TO JUNE 13. HOWEVER, GENERAL KHOURY HAS SENT WORD HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM ON JUNE 8. SIILASVUO HAS ASKED FOR WHAT REASON. HE HAS INFORMED KHOURY UN HAS NOTIFIED GOI IT INTENDS TO TAKE OVER AREA VACATED BY IDF ON JUNE 13 AND (IN ABSENCE OF ANY COMPLICATING RESPONSE FROM GOI,) DOESN'T SEE NEED TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP.

6. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A GENUINE MISUNDERSTANDING AND MY SUSPICION AS TO LOCAL UN MANEUVERING IS APPARENTLY UNFOUNDED. I FIND IT ODD THAT IN JUNE 5 MEETING, LAF MOVE TO SOUTH WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

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